



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE UNCOVERS METHAMPHETAMINE SMUGGLING SCHEME**

*Search of Hesperia residence yields 20 pounds of methamphetamine, 6 assault weapons*

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Four San Bernardino County residents have been charged with drug and weapons violations after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers uncovered a major methamphetamine smuggling operation while serving an administrative arrest warrant at a Hesperia residence Monday.

ICE deportation officers, accompanied by San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies, arrived at the home at 11195 Pinion Avenue Monday morning in search of an immigration fugitive. When the officers entered the home, they saw a large quantity of methamphetamine and several assault rifles in plain view. The deportation officers immediately summoned ICE agents, who secured a search warrant for the property.

During the ensuing search, ICE agents recovered 20 pounds of methamphetamine, six assault rifles (four SKSs, an AR-15, and an AK-47), and two loaded handguns. In addition, agents seized \$96,000 in cash. In an adjacent garage, officers discovered two vehicles that had been outfitted with hidden compartments, allegedly for smuggling drugs. Four children, ranging in age from eight months to four years, were also found at the residence. They were turned over to Child Protective Services.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Regional Methamphetamine Task Force are assisting with the investigation.

"The teamwork among the law enforcement agencies in the Inland Empire has been key to combating the methamphetamine problem," said Gary Pinkava, assistant special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in San Bernardino. "As a result of those efforts, local production of this drug is down dramatically, but as this case shows, the traffickers are continuing to test us."

The three men and one woman arrested in the case made their initial appearance in federal court yesterday. They are: Adrian Gonzalez-Zamora, 25; Juan Zazueta-Castro, 25; Carlos Alfonso-Zazueta, 34; and Itzel Zazueta-Castro, 21. The suspects, all Mexican nationals, are charged with conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine and possession of firearms related to drug trafficking.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*